



Minutes
Budget Workshop -- Sumter County Council
Thursday, June 30, 2011 - Held at 12:00 p.m.
County Administration Building County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Chairman Eugene R. Baten, Council District #7
2. Councilman Larry Blanding, Council District #6
3. Chairman Vivian Fleming McGhaney, Council District #5
4. Councilman Artie Baker, Council District #2
5. Councilman Jimmy Byrd , Council District #3
6. Councilman Charles T. Edens, Council District #4
7. Councilman Naomi D. Sanders, Council District #1

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

William T. Noonan, County Administrator	Mary W. Blanding, Clerk To County Council
Johnathan Bryan, County Attorney	Lorraine Dennis, Deputy Administrator/HR
Pam Craven, Finance Director	Gary Mixon, Deputy Administrator
Keysa Rogers, Budget Analyst	The Honorable C. B. Richardson, Treasurer
The Honorable Lauretha McCants, Auditor	Latham Harris, County Assessor

MEDIA PRESENT:

The Item Newspaper

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Approximately 5 members of the public were in attendance.



Call to Order: Chairman Baten called the meeting to order.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Councilwoman McGhaney.

Pledge of Allegiance: All present repeated the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: The Chairman stated that he would entertain a motion for action on the agenda.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Blanding, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the agenda as presented.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- (1) Discussion And Possible Action On Sumter School District Budget Millage And Budget Resolution

Chairman Baten informed Council that the County staff had prepared two resolutions for Council's consideration - Option A which has a figure listed in it of

\$24,493,138 and 151 mills; and Option B which has only 151 mills and no dollar figure.

Councilman Baten asked to hear from the School District and which option they would prefer, "A or B." He further stated that it would be good if Sumter County Council would do what is in the best interest of the school district.

Council members Edens and Byrd stated that the dollar amount is irrelevant; everything is tied to the 151 mills as set by the S. C. Department Of Revenue and outlined in the S. C. Statues concerning the new school district.

Councilwoman McGhaney asked if the County Attorney could clarify any concerns about this matter.

The County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, stated that the legislation which was passed to consolidate School Districts #2 and #17 into Sumter School District, provided a procedure set up to provide for the budget during the first year of the new District. The legislation states that the S. C. Department of Revenue (DOR) will set-up the number of mills that will generate the dollars to provide for the budget from Ad Valorem taxes.

DOR has provided information that states that the District needs 151, and the purpose of the resolution is to acknowledge the countywide mill. Further, the resolution will authorize the Assessor (assess), the Auditor (bill), and the Treasurer (collect) to do their jobs to receive the funds that are generated by the 151 mills and then send those funds to the school district.

Mr. Bryan recognized both resolutions (A and B), and there are those that suggest that the resolution (A) that has \$24,493,138, seem to believe that the 151 mills will bring in this amount or more. However, regardless what it brings in, the 151 value is what is important to DOR.

He further stated that from the legal perspective, it may appear that if the figure of \$24,493,138 is in the resolution then there are some implications that Council must make sure the School District gets this amount of money. Mr. Bryan stated that everyone must understand that that question or thought is NOT on the table. What is on the table is 151 mills and whatever it brings in will go to the Sumter School District. If the 151 mills does not bring in \$24,493,138, then it is no obligation, expressed or implied for Sumter County Council to make up any shortfall if there is a shortfall.

After comments from the Attorney, Mr. Smith from School District #2 (Finance Director), was asked to let Council know whether or the collection rate in previous

years matched the figures in prior resolutions. Mr. Smith stated during the 24 years he worked for School District #2, the District never received the exact amount of dollars as approved by the mill amount. Sometimes the collection rate was higher and sometimes it was lower, but never equal to the amount of mills.

Mr. Smith also stated that for any shortfall, the School District would use funds from their fund balance/reserve fund. Sumter School District will receive the fund balance from both school districts. School District #2's fund balance is \$1,800,000 and \$3,500,00 or \$2,500,000.

The Chairman then recognized Mr. Bynum, Incoming Superintendent of Sumter School District, to make several comments. He stated that just like any other business, the School District needs to keep a reserve account. Also, if the 151 mills do not provide the collection of \$24,493,138, then the district would have to use some of the fund balance. Mr. Bynum further stated that the District will be looking at furlough days for the employees based on his review of the projected funds and the financial needs of Sumter School District.

After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion concerning the resolution.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders, and unanimously carried by Council to approve resolution Option B of 151 mills for Sumter School District (without a dollar amount) and directed the Chairman and the Clerk to execute and deliver the resolution on behalf of the County.

Chairman Baten asked for any other comments or concerns from Council.

Councilman Byrd stated that he would like to go on record that Council should amend its budget and remove the Delegation's 50% increase from its line item and place it in Council's Contingency Fund. The following action was taken.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Byrd to remove the Delegation's 50% increase from its line item and place it in Council's Contingency Fund. The motion died for a lack of a second.

- (2) It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session And To Take Action Thereafter For One Or All Of The Following: Contractual Matter, Legal Briefing, Employment/Personnel Issue, etc.

No executive session was held.

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ADJOURNMENT:

After all comments, Council adjourned its meeting after a motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding

Mary W. Blanding, Clerk to Sumter County Council

Approved: July 12, 2011

State of South Carolina)

County of Sumter)

Resolution

**A Resolution Supporting The
2011-2012 Budget of Sumter School District**

Be It Resolved by the County Council for Sumter County, South Carolina, in Council duly assembled:

1. That in accordance with South Carolina Act 387 of 2008, as last amended by Act 112 of 2009, effective July 1, 2011; Sumter County shall consist of one school district to be known as the Sumter School District.

2. That for purposes of determining the previous year's millage of the district upon its creation, the millage levy for the district must be determined and calculated by the Department of Revenue based on the 2010 levy of Districts 2 and 17 and the value of a mill in each district. Beginning 2011, the amount levied by the district by way of millage is subject to millage limitations provided by general law and local law, and beginning in 2011, any increase over the 2010 millage as computed above must be approved by the governing body of Sumter County.

3. That the appropriate officials of Sumter County, South Carolina, are authorized and directed to determine, assess, levy, collect, and disburse mills equaling to **151 mills**, as determined by the Department of Revenue, which equates to the millage needed to meet Sumter School District's Operating Budget through Ad Valorem taxes.

4. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

Adopted this 30th day of June 2011.



**THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SUMTER COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA (SEAL)**

By: _____
Eugene R. Baten, Chairman
Its: Sumter County Council

ATTEST:

By: _____
Mary W. Blanding
Its: Clerk to Sumter County Council